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NEW YORK (UPI) -- A LETTER FORMER PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER WROTE TO A BOSTON FRIEND IN MARCH, 1968, CHARACTERIZED ROBERT F. KENNEDY AS "SHALLOW, VAIN AND UNTRUSTWORTHY" AND UNFIT FOR THE PRESIDENCY.

THE LETTER, SIGNED "IKE," WAS AUCTIONED OFF AT THE WALDORF ASTORIA THURSDAY NIGHT BY THE CHARLES HAMILTON GALLERIES. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE GALLERIES SAID THE LETTER SOLD FOR $3,500 -- THE "HIGHEST PRICE EVER" FETCHED BY A LETTER SIGNED BY A 20TH CENTURY PRESIDENT.

THE TWO-PAGE TYPEWRITTEN LETTER WAS SENT FROM EISENHOWER IN INDIO, CALIF., TO BRIG. GEN. ROBERT CUTLER, A BOSTON BANKER AND FORMER AIDE IN THE EISENHOWER WHITE HOUSE. THE LETTER WAS DATED MARCH 26, 1968 -- SOME THREE MONTHS BEFORE KENNEDY WAS ASSASSINATED IN LOS ANGELES.

THE SPOKESMAN QUOTED IKE AS WRITING: "ROBERT KENNEDY IS SHALLOW, VAIN, AND UNTRUSTWORTHY -- ON TOP OF WHICH HE IS INDECISIVE.

"IT IS DIFFICULT FOR ME TO SEE A SINGLE QUALIFICATION THE MAN HAS FOR THE PRESIDENCY," THE LETTER SAID.

THE LETTER WAS SOLD TO THE SCRIPTORIUM, A BEVERLY HILLS, CALIF., DEALER.

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